

Application No.: 10/767,740

Docket No.: 21499-00042-US3

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

21. (New) An additive for the production of paper or paperboard from pulp, said additive comprising starch which has been degraded to a viscosity level of 10 – 500 mPas (5%, 60°C, Brookfield) and cationized to a charge level of 0.36 – 1.46 meq/g.

22. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been degraded by peroxide oxidation.

23. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been degraded to a viscosity level of 40-3000 mPaS (5%, 60°C, Brookfield).

24. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been degraded to a viscosity level of 100-200 mPaS (5%, 60°C, Brookfield).

25. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been cationized by solution cationization.

26. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been cationized by dry cationization.

27. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been cationized to a charge level of 0.36-1.10 mEq/g.

28. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been cationized to a charge level of 0.72-1.46 mEq/g.

29. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been cationized to a charge level of 0.72-1.10 mEq/g.

Application No.: 10/767,740

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30. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been degraded before being cationized.
31. (New) The additive according to claim 21, wherein the starch has been cationized before being degraded.
32. (New) A method of decreasing dusting of paper or paperboard, comprising adding an additive according to claim 21 to the pulp before web formation.
33. (New) A method according to claim 32, comprising adding said additive in an amount of 1.0-3.0 kg/ton.
34. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein the additive is used together with conventional wet end starch.
35. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the additive is dosed before the conventional wet end starch.
36. (New) A pulp composition for producing paper or paperboard, which composition comprises a starch additive according to claim 21.